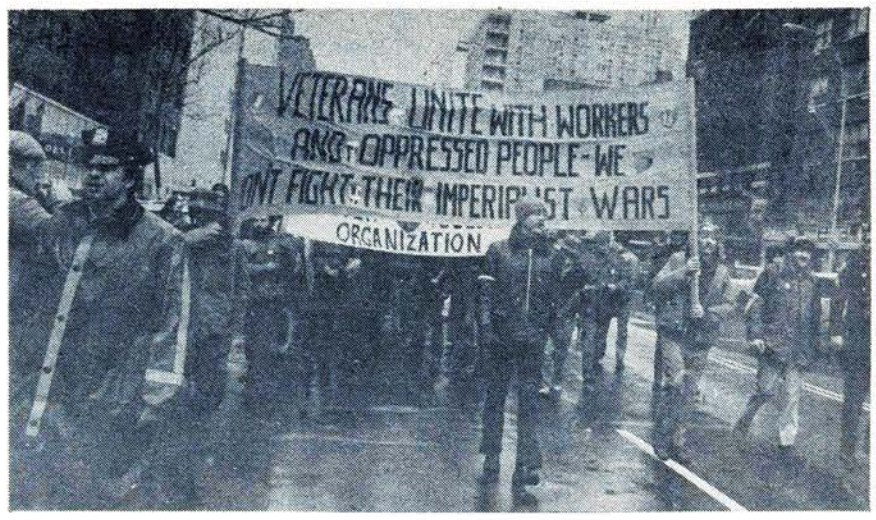
Vietnam Vets Day–
'WAR ON V.A.' INTENSIFIES!



WINTER ★ SOLDIER

A PUBLICATION OF VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR/WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

25

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 4 ★★★

EDITORIAL

Throughout the world, there is a rising tide of resistance and rebellion against oppression and exploitation. After 30 years of continued struggle, the Indochinese people are completely victorious in their fight to rid Southeast Asia of US imperialism. In Africa, Latin America and the Middle East, oppressed people are drawing great inspiration from the Indochinese and renewing their struggles. In this country, more and more people are coming forward to fight against the rotten system that shackles their lives.

And the enemy is growing weaker every day. The imperialist system is in a deepening economic and political crisis. Cutbacks, layoffs, speed-ups, police attacks, preparations for new wars -- these are the only answers that the ruling class has for this crisis, because it is their crisis and their system that is in deep trouble. Working people are beginning to see this with great clarity, and thousands are taking up the fight against these attacks on their lives.

For veterans, and especially for those that this system used in its vain attempts to crush the liberation struggle of the Indochinese people, there is unemployment, rotten VA hospitals, addiction to methadone, late checks, cutbacks in pensions and disability payments and red tape. But it is no accident that these problems plague veterans. The VA and its bureaucrats and red tape are part and parcel of what is happening to working people all over -- part and parcel of the system of imperialism.

It takes no genius or super-sleuth to tell that the VA stinks. And a hell of a lot of vets are pissed at the treatment they're getting. But it does take more than anger to change things. It takes organization and it takes unity, and it takes consistent struggle to defeat imperialism. The need has never been greater to build a fighting movement of vets, a movement to unite veterans with the struggles of all oppressed and working people. Don't look back -- look forward and BUILD THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST VETERANS' MOVEMENT!!!

Join VVAW/WSO

For more information or the address of the nearest chapter, call or write to us at:
827 W. Newport
Chicago, Illinois 60657
(312) 935-2129

Name

Street Address

City State Zip

VETS & STUDENTS PROTEST PARADE

DETROIT DEMONSTRATORS ASSEMBLE AT VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING

The US Army was out to "celebrate" their 200th anniversary on April 6th with a parade in downtown Detroit. The ruling class just couldn't wait to kick off their bi-centennial events; and a kick-off is exactly what they got. The Detroit chapters of VVAW/WSO and the Revolutionary Student Brigade (RSB), organized a militant counter-demonstration raising the demands, "We Won't Fight Any Imperialist Wars," "End All Aid to Thieu and Lon Nol," and "Superpowers Hands Off the Middle East." Other slogans, banners and picket signs put forward demands for "Decent Benefits for All Veterans," "Total Amnesty for All War Resisters," "No Tuition Hikes," and "No Cutbacks in Education."

The Army parade was made up of mostly Army reservists. Hardly anyone from Detroit came out to watch the parade, showing what most people thought of the event. The people who did attend said they were there because their sons were marching. Most of these people were sympathetic to the chants and the leaflets that were given out by the demonstrators.

The vet-student demonstration began with a militant picket line at the Veterans Memorial Building and proceeded up Woodward Avenue in the opposite direction of the Army parade. They ended up, to the dismay of the cops and military Brass, right next to the reviewing stand just as the first troops came marching by. The demonstrators lined the parade route, holding banners and chanting, "Kick the Brass in the Ass, We Won't Fight for the Ruling Class" and "The Same Class that Puts us in the Squeeze Doesn't Give a Damn about the Refugees!"

After almost 15 minutes at the reviewing stand, the demonstrators went to Kennedy Square where they continued to chant and pass out leaflets. The Army reservists responded enthusiastically! One reservist in an armored vehicle raised his fist in support, while others in the parade did the same. At one point a vet shouted "Eyes Right." A whole platoon turned to face the people and responded with clenched fists in solidarity. As the reservists finished the march they came back past the demonstration. One GI said: "I wouldn't be here but I need the money; they had to drag us down here."

At the rally, held while the troops were marching by, the VVAW/WSO speaker talked about the role of the US Army in Indochina and explained how the ruling class was using the Vietnam orphans, playing on the genuine sympathy of the American people. "After all the misery the ruling class has heaped upon the Vietnamese people, how can these hypocrites tell us they are concerned about refugees and orphans."

A leaflet handed out stated, "The refugees are being used as a human shield to cover the withdrawing South Vietnamese troops... What's really going on is that the US puppet, Thieu, and his army have deliberately forced thousands from their homes by ordering a scorched earth policy of 'burn all, loot all.'"

A speaker from the RSB summed up the Army's fiasco by saying: "How dare these generals come out here to 'celebrate' the US Army when what they're actually doing is training for desert warfare in preparation for the Middle East. Well, we refuse to be dragged into their war. We, students, veterans, workers and other oppressed people have nothing in common with these henchmen for US imperialism. Victory to the Palestinian People and all liberation struggles!"

Vietnam Veterans Day Actions Attack VA & Imperialist Wars!

Vets fight mace in Milwaukee

Chants such as "Look out VA, This is a Bust; Decent Benefits are a Must," "Thieu gets Billions, Vets get Crumbs; Organize to Fight the Bums," and "Come on People, Stand up and Fight, Jobs or Income is our Right" rang out in cities across the country as VVAW/WSO chapters took to the streets on "Honor Vietnam Veterans Day."

In 1974, the Nixon administration set aside March 29 as Vietnam Veterans Day in an attempt to placate a rising movement of veterans demanding decent benefits, an end to the red tape typical of Veterans Administration facilities, and an end to cutbacks. Last year on March 29, VVAW/WSO held demonstrations around the demand of "Decent Benefits for All Vets" as we set out to unite vets and other people around the struggle for improving conditions at the VA, while at the same time, linking the struggles of vets with the struggles being waged by other working and oppressed people. After last year's militant actions, Vietnam Veterans Day "festivities" did not take place this year. The small class of people who rule this country couldn't face another exposure of the myth that the US "honors" its veterans, so the farce was called off.

Though the ruling class did not go through with its sham glorification of vets, VVAW/WSO took to the streets anyway. Because of the present economic crisis, the conditions working people face are getting worse, and vets are getting screwed like everyone else. Massive unemployment and cutbacks in just about every social service are taking their toll; vets, like other working people, are fighting back -- and they're fighting mad!

Most of the Vietnam Vets Day demonstrations were part of VVAW/WSOs growing campaign of "War on the VA." In Los Angeles, the first major VVAW/WSO action in over 2 years was held at the VA hospital. Chapters in southern California built for the action by getting out 12,000 leaflets at unemployment offices, campuses, plants and the VA in both LA and Long Beach. Over 100 people attended the action and many of the people had never been to a demonstration before. The demonstrators picketed the VA hospital for about an hour, raising demands for "Decent Benefits for All Vets" and "Jobs or Income for All!" Great unity was expressed between the people demonstrating and VA patients and workers who were on the inside. After the picket line, people marched to the federal building where a rally was held. Speakers included a doctor who works at the VA, one of the student workers, and VVAW/WSO members--one of whom is a patient at the VA. The action in LA was a great success, both in developing the VA campaign and in building a fighting vets movement.

On April 2, the Milwaukee chapter again confronted the VA hospital after holding a rally where people put the VA on trial. Vets from all over the city angrily testified about the inadequate medical care, experimentation, harassment and red tape. One brother told how the hospital was locking all the wards to prevent patients from joining the action, but another brother said they couldn't lock up everyone! He was one of the many patients who somehow made it out of the hospital to join the action. At the close of the rally, a VVAW/WSO member explained that the VA, and the whole imperialist system that it is a part of, is rotten to the core--and the only way we're going to get rid of this system is to fight it. With this in mind, people headed for the VA. When the demonstrators arrived a militant picket line of over 75 people was set up. Then people began to go inside the hospital to unite with the patients who were locked up, but as they poured in the doors, they were met by VA goons--the GSA guards. The guards started macing the demonstrators, and the people used their fists and picket signs to their advantage. Although the people didn't get inside the hospital, the VA paid dearly for stopping them. The macing exposed the hospital for the butcher shop it is where the cops have to try and keep people in line. Although the demonstrators were prevented from physically linking up with those inside, the attack by the guards welded the aspirations of all the vets--inside and out--into an iron fist. Unity between VVAW/WSO and the VA patients was strengthened, despite the hospital's attempt to put an end to the rising tide of fighting spirit.

Macing also occurred at VVAW/WSOs demonstration at the VA Regional Office in Chicago. Thirty people set up a picket line at the VA, demanding decent benefits, an end to red tape, the hiring of more VA workers, and an end to all cutbacks. Seven of the demonstrators seized the lobby in an effort to unite with the many vets there. One VVAW/WSO member gave a speech, while others leafletted. VA guards asked the demonstrators to leave and when they refused, a fight broke out. After a few minutes, guards attacked the demonstration with mace in a futile attempt to silence the people, indiscriminately spraying employees and patients. The demonstrators made a tactical retreat and went to leaflet on the steps outside, where several more confrontations with the VA cops erupted. Many vets going in and out of the building united with the demonstrators--taking leaflets, talking about the "War on the VA," and listening to the speeches that were being given on the steps. Though there were errors in the action, namely that the speech given inside was not agitational and did not take up the particular demands of vets, this was corrected in the speeches given outside and vets were much more willing to unite with the demonstrators. In a sum-up leaflet taken to the VA, Chicago VVAW/WSO stated: "A few chumps with squirt-guns aren't going to stop the struggle. We will be back, and next time there will be more of us. If they stand in our way we will run right over them."

Elsewhere in the country, VVAW/WSO in Oregon made a limited incursion into the Portland VA hospital. VVAW/WSO is just beginning to organize in Portland and this action consisted of members handing out newspapers and leaflets which were met with great enthuiasm from patients, hospital workers and some doctors who supported their demands. One vet told the VA officials, "We're here as part of the 'War on the VA.' Vets are fighting against the rotten conditions at VA hospitals all over the nation and we're opening a new front here!"

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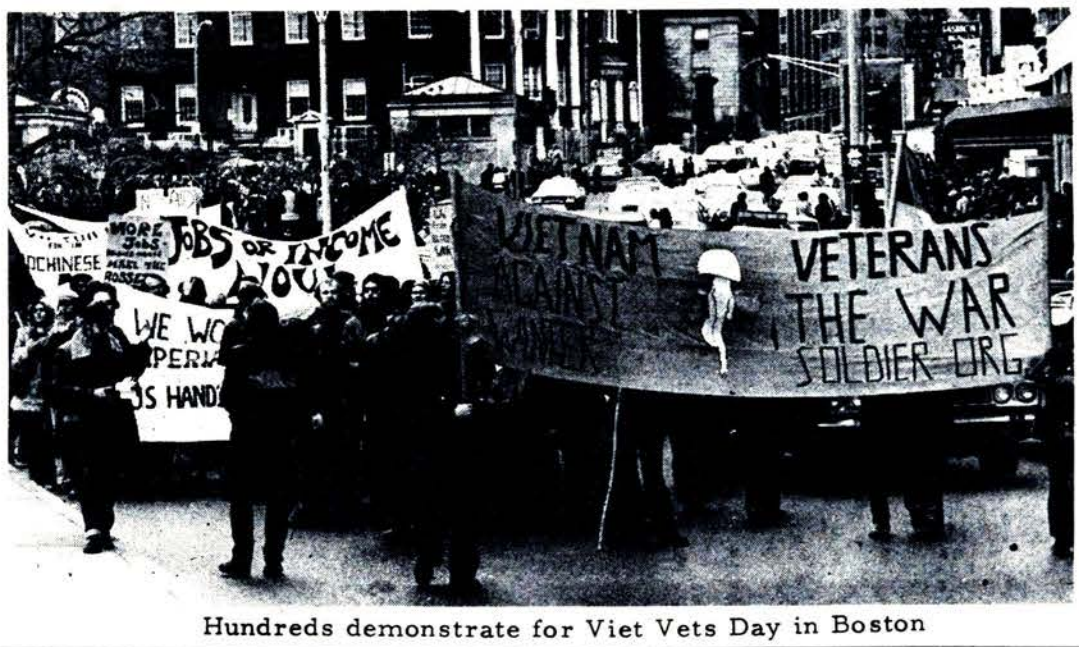


Hundreds demonstrate for Viet Vets Day in Boston

DEMONSTRATE ON ARMED FORCES DAY-MAY 17TH!

WE WON'T FIGHT ANY IMPERIALIST WARS!

★VICTORY TO THE INDOCHINESE PEOPLE!★

★SUPERPOWERS–HANDS OFF THE MIDDLE EAST!★

On May 17, 1975, VVAW/WSO, in conjunction with anti-imperialist GI, student and workers groups, will demonstrate at major military installations on Armed Forces Day.

The current economic crisis in the US is driving more and more poor and working people into the military as the only alternative to rising unemployment. The military and government are sorely mistaken, however, if they believe that GIs will fight another war of aggression like Vietnam, in order to pull the imperialists' profits out of the fire. They are making a fatal error if they expect the US working class to once again stand in line to be cannon fodder, particularly with the experiences of Vietnam and all of Indochina in everyone's minds. The lessons of the Vietnam war take on significant meaning when Ford and Kissinger talk about armed intervention in the Middle East.

The "use once and throw away" treatment of Vietnam-era vets, the increasing racism and oppression in the military, coupled with poor living and working conditions, have heightened the growing GI resistance to military oppression. Exposing the dual nature of this oppression, the military first uses terror and repressive measures to keep the troops in line and then turns around and attempts to use these same GIs to protect the interests of their bosses -- the profitmakers; it tries to use them to fight imperialist wars; to crush national liberation struggles people are waging around the world; and the struggles of working people in the US in their fight for jobs or income for all. American imperialism is a candle burning at both ends, sealing its own doom. Either revolution will stop imperialist war or imperialist war will bring about revolution.

GIs have been fighting for their rights throughout the years since the inception of the first American militia units up to the present period. The past few years, marked by particularly sharp struggle, have brought major GI struggles and victories around the world. Increasingly, GIs are organizing a fighting movement to combat the day-to-day oppression they are faced with, at the same time, linking those struggles with those of the people the world over who are fighting imperialism.

The concept of demonstrations on Armed Forces Day is not new in the history of the GI movement. Armed Forces Day, initiated under the Truman administration in the '50's to glorify the role of the US military as a world aggressor, has met with stiff resistance on the part of GIs since 1970 when a growing GI movement against the war in Indochina helped grind the war machine in Vietnam to a halt.

The need for mass actions around Armed Forces Day is not to see how many people can be mobilized for the sake of GI movement tradition, but to express our united anger against the military and its role in the world, to realize the unity and power that rests with the GI movement and to link that struggle with the struggles of the masses of poor and working people in this country today. Unity is a powerful club in the hands of the oppressed, for truly, the people united will never be defeated.

The three major demands that VVAW/WSO is raising in these demonstrations are:

WE WON'T FIGHT ANY IMPERIALIST WARS!

VICTORY TO THE INDOCHINESE PEOPLE!

SUPERPOWERS, HANDS OFF THE MID-EAST!

VVAW/WSO is inviting GIs, vets, and all who can unite with us to join this day of demonstrations. We encourage people to contact the VVAW/WSO chapters nearest them for further information on local activities. Local demonstrations will be raising additional demands.

Chapters of VVAW/WSO unable to attend the major demonstrations are uniting with others in throwing recruiters off campus and out of unemployment offices, exposing the role of ROTC on college campuses and high schools, and initiating work at military installations and local National Guard and Reserve units. GIs in isolated areas and aboard ships are also being encouraged to unite and take what acts of resistance are possible.

Large demonstrations are planned at the following locations. For additional information on other locations, contact the VVAW/WSO National Office.

Highway 13-VVAW/WSO
108 Washington Blvd.
Laurel, Maryland 20810
(Ft. Meade - Washington, DC area)
(301) 792-0915

San Diego VVAW/WSO
P.O. Box 8036
San Diego, California 92102
(Southern California)
(714) 233-9612

Tacoma VVAW/WSO
P.O. Box 411
Tillicum, Washington 98492
(Ft. Lewis area)
(206) 272-4532

Liberated Barracks - VVAW/WSO
525 N. Kalaheo Ave.
Kailua, Hawaii 96734
(808) 261-4855 or 262-5764

VIET VETS DAY -- continued

In Syracuse, NY, 9 VVAW/WSO members occupied the VA office as a picket line of 60 people marched and chanted outside. Spirits were high during the takeover, and as one vet with a bad discharge said (while sitting in one of the office's comfortable swivel chairs), "This is the only thing I've ever gotten out of the VA." During the occupation, demonstrators answered phone calls, explaining that it was their office for the day. Solidarity was expressed with VA employees who enthuiastically took copies of WINTER SOLDIER. Later in the day, a picture of Jerry Ford was turned upside down and people decided that he didn't look any different hanging that way. After a few hours the occupation ended, but the demands of "Decent Benefits," "Jobs or Income," and "End All Aid to Thieu and Lon Nol" were boldly presented to the VA bureaucrats.

In Washington, DC, over 100 people demonstrated around the same demands that were put forward in Syracuse. The action began with a picket line at an unemployment office and later, a rally was held there. Several people had gathered around the picket line and rally and the speeches were received with cheers of solidarity. After the rally, the demonstrators marched 3 miles to the VA, where another picket line was set up. A few days before the demo, VVAW/WSO had made contact with a vet who had his disability cut, but the VA refused to talk with him when he tried to protest the cutback. While the picket line was going on outside a small contingent went inside with this brother for the purpose of jamming the VA about the disability cut. Though the VA did not take any action, at least the demonstration forced a meeting. As a result, the brother is now working with VVAW/WSO in DC and is part of their weekly picket line. The action was summed up as being one of the most militant and spirited that Washington has seen in a long time. As the crisis of imperialism deepens, we can see that more and more people are coming out to these kinds of actions, looking for ways to fight back against the attacks that are coming down on people and beginning to understand that through unity, there is strength.

Demonstrators near Westwood VA in Los Angeles

The largest Vietnam Vets Day action was held in New York City, where a coalition of groups, initiated by VVAW/WSO, built for a demonstration which was attended by over 700 people (in the rain). Over 62,000 pieces of literature were gotten out to build the action under the major demands of: "Implement the Agreement--End All Aid to Thieu and Lon Nol," "Jobs or Income for All," "We Won't Fight Any Imperialist Wars-US Hands Off the Mid-East," and "Vets Unite and Fight Back." The 700 demonstrators marched through the heart of Manhattan and ended with a rally in Herald Square. One of the most popular chants, focusing on the threat of imperialist war was, "We Didn't Cause Your Crisis; We Won't Fight Your Wars!" As one VVAW/WSO speaker stated at the rally, "Our goal is not ending this particular war, but the smashing of the system that causes the war -- imperialism!"

Other demonstrations around Vietnam Veterans Day took place in Riverside, Orange County and Oakland, California; Cincinnati, Minneapolis, Boston, Westchester, NY and other cities.

Vietnam Veterans Day was concocted to "honor" the GIs who fought against the people of Indochina. But it's a sham "honor." It's no honor to fight an imperialist war and it's no honor to live in a system that exploits and oppresses not only people in the US, but people around the world. It's no honor to be unemployed or to have rotten health care. And it's no honor to be used by society to fight in wars of aggression and then be shoved aside by a society that can't meet the needs of its people. Vets and non-vets joined in these demonstrations to expose this sham. They joined their united voices and actions to direct one more blow at the system causing the wars, the exploitation and the oppression--the system of imperialism. More and more people are daily adding their voices to this fight--a fight that will be won when the imperialist system is finally wiped out once and for all!

WHAT IS VVAW-WSO?

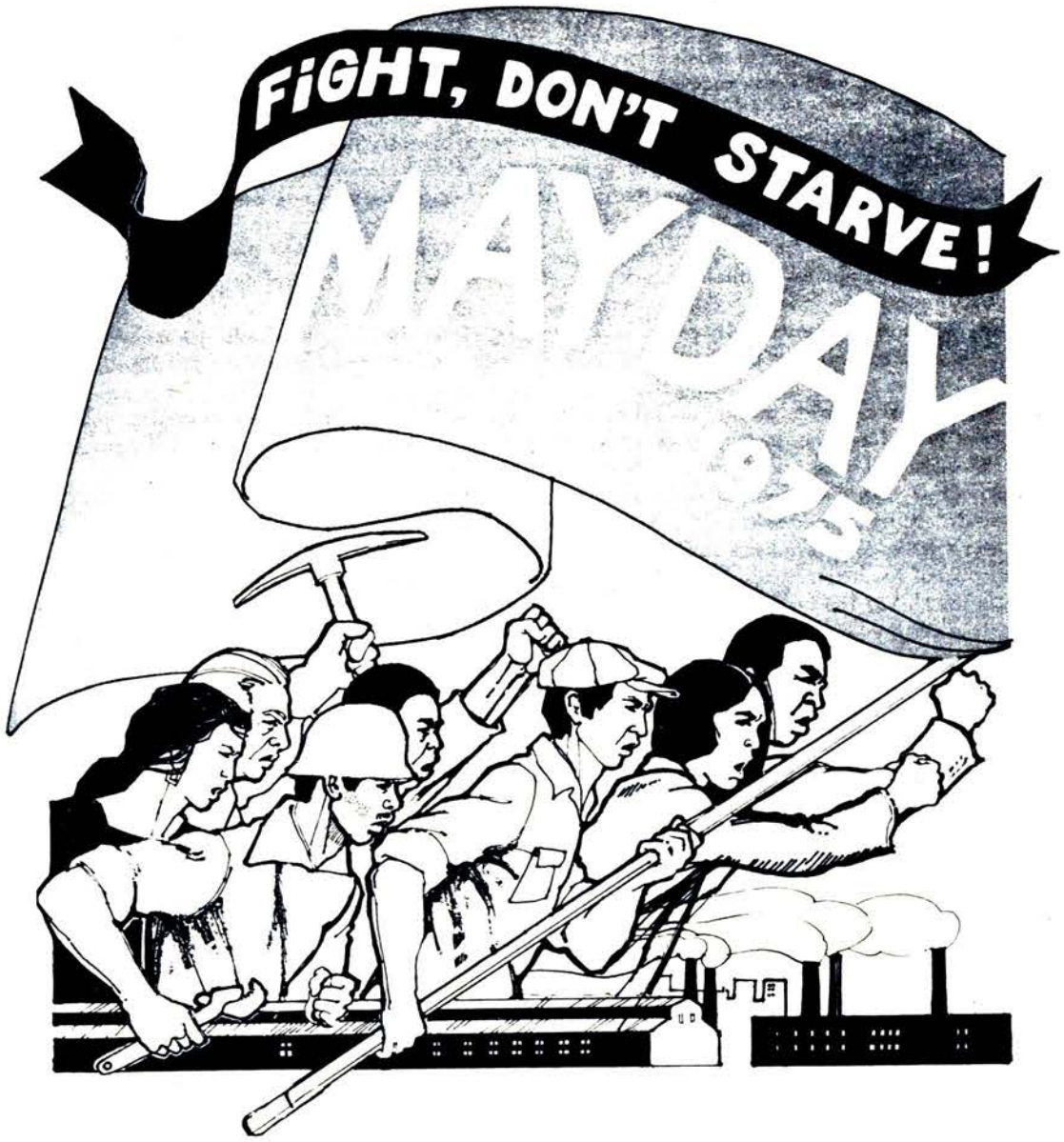
Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization (VVAW/WSO) is an international organization working to build a fighting movement of veterans and GIs to struggle against the exploitation and oppression of US imperialism, both a home and abroad. We are made up of vets and non-vets, GIs and civilians, men and women.

Veterans and GIs have absolutely no interest in maintaining the system of imperialism, and have nothing in common with the handful of rich who own and run it. The only law this system knows is the law of profit, and the ruling class will do anything to insure and increase their take. VVAW/WSO knows this only too well from the struggle to put an end to the war in Indochina, a war that was not fought for the Indochinese or American people. Millions of poor and working people were forced or conned into the military to fight for the profits and domination of the imperialists over the resources and wealth of Southeast Asia.

GIs rose up and rebelled against being used this way, and rebelled against the unbearable conditions (harassment, oppression of national minorities, oppression of women) that exist in the military. As ex-GIs, veterans have found joblessness, meatmarket VA hospitals, a miniscule GI Bill; and veterans are pissed about it. Everyday, vets and GIs are standing up to the Brass and VA bureaucrats, standing up to the courts and the cops; and fighting for a better life.

VVAW/WSO has declared "War on the VA" and is fighting hard to see that veterans get jobs, health care and education. We have also taken on the military, organizing ourselves and other GIs to fight back. But we are clear on one thing: that as long as the system of imperialism still exists, the VA can never serve the needs of vets; and as long as the military is the bludgeon of the ruling class, GIs will never be fighting in their own interests or in the interests of the American people.

VVAW/WSO is a weapon in the hands of veterans and GIs, a weapon to join with workers, students, women and oppressed people to defeat the system that lets a band of thieves steal the wealth of the world. We stand ready to fight VA cutbacks, fight for GI rights, to fight this system tooth and nail until it is ground into dust for all time. We have a common enemy: the ruling class and its system--imperialism; and the people are getting stronger every day while this rotten system grows weaker. THE PEOPLE UNITED WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED!! JOIN US!! For more information contact the local VVAW/WSO chapter in your area, regional office or the National Office at 827 W. Newport St., Chicago, ILL 60657, Tel (312) 935-2129.



(Richard Nixon called it "Law and Order Day;" Franklin Roosevelt called it "Child Health Day;" and each year thousands of children dance around a maypole supposedly celebrating spring. But May Day is none of these things and far from being "given to us" by the government, May Day is a holiday created by workers through brutal and bloody struggle to raise themselves from the swamp of exploitation and oppression. The history and great significance of this day belongs to the working people of the entire world and is celebrated by workers the world over. Although May Day is celebrated on May 1st, its spirit lives with us everyday, and we must link up with our heritage to move forward in the struggle against imperialism).

HISTORY

The American working class has, through its struggles, given birth to two international workers holidays. One is International Women's Day, March 8th, born out of the militant struggles of women workers in the garment industry. The other is May Day -- International Workers' Day.

In the 1880s, millions of workers came to this country crowded on ships hoping to find wealth and freedom. Once here, they became part of the American working class. Workers spent long hours knee deep in water in dangerous mines; they built the railroads; they built the cities, the factories and almost everything else. The average work day was between 14 and 18 hours. New York City bakers worked from 84-120 hours a week. Average weekly wages ranged from $7.40 to $8.00. In cities like Chicago, workers and their families were forced to live in filthy tenement houses or in cellars, and for this they had to pay $10-15 a month. These conditions became worse in 1883 when a depression hit the country, throwing thousands out of work (sound familiar?)

But the workers didn't take this sitting on their thumbs. They were organizing unions, and a mass movement was growing to demand an 8-hour work day. Wearing "eight hour shoes" manufactured in factories where workers had won the shorter work day and smoking "eight hour tobacco," workers everywhere took up the call -- "eight hours for work, eight hours for rest, eight hours for what we will!"

It was in Chicago that the largest strikes and demonstrations occurred. Fourty-thousand workers struck and 80,000 marched. The workers movement in Chicago was the strongest and most militant in the country. It was there, at the height of the struggle for the 8-hour day, that the infamous "Haymarket Massacre" happened. Workers had been on strike at the McCormick Harvester factory for several months. Chicago police had attacked the strikers several times. On May 3rd, 6,000 workers rallied in support of the strikers when police attacked the rally, killing one worker and wounding several others.

Some 1300 people turned out to protest the murder at this factory, meeting at Haymarket Square. As they heard speeches by Albert Parsons, August Spies and other militant leaders, a large contingent of police suddenly appeared and ordered the crowd to disperse. A bomb exploded in the midst of the police, leaving one dead. The police began to fire wildly into the crowd, killing one demonstrator and wounding others. Immediately, most of the leaders of the 8-hour movement were arrested. A reign of terror was unleashed on working class communities, with thousands of workers being arrested and thrown out of work.

"Hang them first and try them afterwards," cried the large newspapers of the day. All the defendants were found guilty and all but one sentenced to hang. A mass campaign was begun to try to save their lives. Workers and progressive people here and in other countries demonstrated to demand their freedom. But the capitalists were out for blood. They hoped to intimidate the workers and prevent them from struggling for a better life in the future. But August Spies crushed this notion as he addressed his "hanging" judge: "If you think that by hanging us you can stamp out the labor movement --the movement from which the downtrodden millions, the millions who toil in want and misery, expect starvation -- if this is your opinion then hang us! Here you will tread upon a spark, but there and there, behind you and in front of you, and everywhere, flames blaze up! It is a subterranian fire. You cannot put it out."

Since that day, May Day has been a rallying cry for millions of working people around the world. May Day in Berlin in 1929 saw workers defy police bans to demonstrate and when they were attacked, the workers threw up barricades and beat back the police who tried to enter the workers' community. On May Day 1943, in occupied Warsaw, the Jewish Fighters organization celebrated their holiday in their ghetto and then, disguised as Nazi troops, attacked and destroyed a German command post.

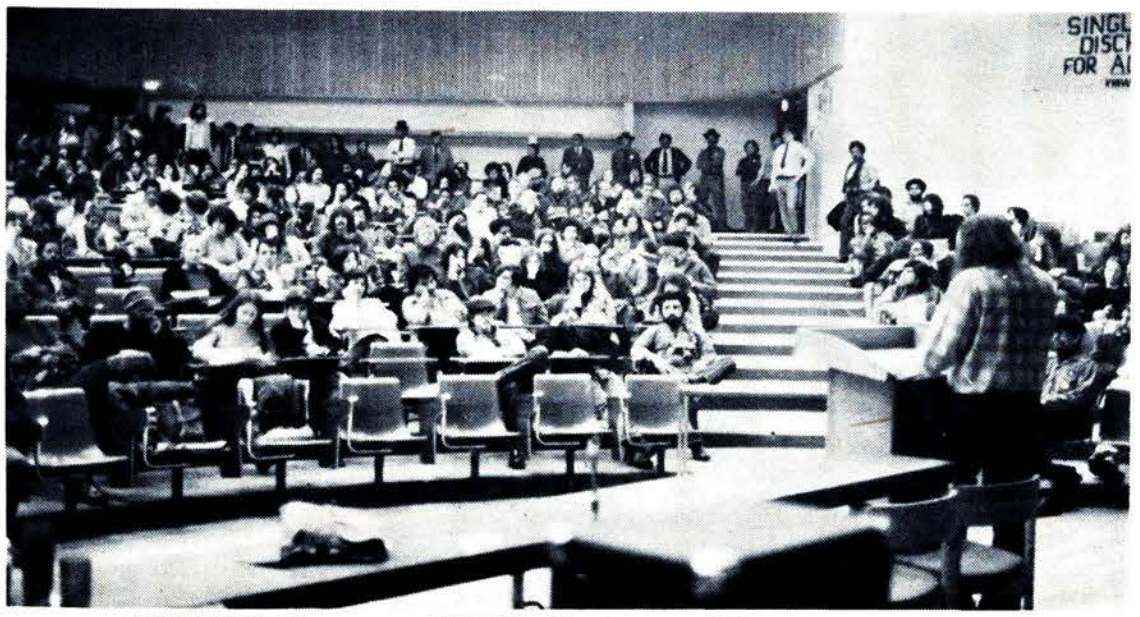
TODAY

VVAW/WSO joined with thousands of other people in celebrating May Day this year. We are dedicated to building a fighting vets and GI movement, a movement to attack the rotten VA system and to struggle to overcome the oppressive conditions of the military as a part of the overall fight being waged against imperialism. The majority of vets and GIs come from the working class, and most vets have returned to that class upon release from the military. The very roots of vets and GIs go back to those men and women fighting for an 8-hour day, fighting against starvation, unemployment and the tyranny of the bosses.

May Day is a fighting day, a joyous day, and a day for militant celebration of past struggles and future victories. When we are demanding "Decent Benefits for All Vets," "Jobs or Income for All," and "End All Oppression in the Military" we must wage our struggle in the spirit of May Day, understanding our revolutionary heritage. We must bring to the doors of the VA and to the gates of the military that unity which belongs to all the working and oppressed people of the world -- a unity and spirit embodied in International Workers Day!

People Expose Zionism

FREE PALESTINE



VVAW/WSO Forum on Middle East at Old Westbury, N.Y.

To expose the massive propaganda campaigns that have been waged through the media to whip up hysteria against the Palestinian people, the Old Westbury chapter of VVAW/WSO on Long Island held a Middle-East forum featuring speakers from the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Iranian Students Association, the Revolutionary Union and VVAW/WSO. Approximately 500 people attended the forum.

The speaker from the PLO outlined the position of the Palestinian people in their opposition to the existance of the Zionist State of Israel. He stated, "The struggle for liberation and justice cannot be divided. We all stand united against the the twin enemies of Zionism and imperialism." He pointed out that "the Zionist movement from its very inception has been an exclusionist, racist movement because it excluded people on the basis of their religious beliefs."

During the speech of a member of the Revolutionary Union, a person from the audience yelled out that it was the Zionists who helped the Jewish people in their struggle against the Nazis in the Warsaw ghetto. The crowd cheered as the RU speaker corrected him, by pointing out that, in fact, it was the Communists who aided the struggle against the Fascists, and the Zionists were collaborating with the Nazis. Many of the Zionists took bribes from the Nazis and free passage to Israel in exchange for information about underground Jewish resistance groups.

During the question and answer period, another individual from the audience asked why there were only pro-Palestinian speakers on the program. The VVAW/WSO moderator stated, "Everyday I can pick up a copy of the New York Times or turn on the TV and get the Zionist point of view. This meeting is for the people's point of view."

Several times individuals from the audience attempted to disrupt the forum by chanting abusive remarks. But the overwhelming majority of the audience shouted them down with prolonged applause and chants of "LONG LIVE PALESTINE!"

A similar show of support for the struggle of the Palestinian people occurred in Ann Arbor, Michigan on the University of Michigan campus, March 21st, as over 200 people disrupted a ceremony conferring an honorary degree on the President of Israel. Storming into the auditorium, the demonstrators, including many Arab people, chanted, "FREE, FREE PALESTINE" and "JEWISH PEOPLE YES, ZIONISM NO!" In a strong show of militant support for the Palestinian people, the multi-national crowd shouted down the Zionist for over thirty minutes making it impossible for him to address his audience.

It is clear that as the situation in the Middle-East becomes more intense, support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people is growing as people all over the world rise up to throw off the shackles of the imperialists.

FREE PALESTINE !!

Campaign against repression

CAULEY IS FREE!

After months of organizing against police repression, the people of Chicago won an important victory when Antowyn Cauley was found innocent of all charges against him. Antowyn, a young Black man, was accused of assaulting cops who had shot him last August in the Juneway community where he lives. After the verdict was read at the trial, the people in the courtroom cheered and stomped their feet over this victory.

When Antowyn was shot over 2,000 people from Juneway came out to protest the shooting and the police repression in the community. From that first night until the verdict was read, the Coalition to Stop Police Repression and many of the people from Juneway and other Chicago communities picketed, marched and leafletted throughout the city to organize people to fight for Antowyn's freedom and to build a movement against police repression. It was this unity and determination that set Cauley free.

The struggle against police repression continues to grow. The ruling class, in its desperate attempts to survive are coming down harder on working people in Chicago and all over the country. This is particularly true in Black and Latino neighborhoods, like Juneway. The police, who are around to protect the interests of the banks, the real estate companies and the businesses that suck off the workers' sweat are stepping up their repression.

The attack on Antowyn Cauley was not an isolated incident. Recently in Chicago another young Black man was shot to death by the cops. Michael Gilmore was standing on a street corner with his friends, when two cops pulled up and shot him in the head. Neighbors poured out of their homes, angered by what had happened, forcing the cops to flee. People could really see the strength in their unity and a way to begin to fight these police attacks.

More and more working people, sick and tired of the rotten conditions forced on them by the system, are taking up the struggle against police murders and repression.

As part of the growing movement against police terror in Chicago, the Worker's Committee to Stop Police Repression held a dinner on April 5th to celebrate Cauley's victory and to talk about their continuing work. One speaker talked about how the fight wasn't over, stating, "We're not just talking about freeing individuals, or going to people like ... Jesse Jackson. We're going out to the people, because only the people can stop police repression." Another speaker said, "Police repression is nothing new to the working class and neither is the fight against it. Police are there, like armies and courts, to serve and protect the system and the ruling class."

A woman from the May Day Worker's Committee summed up the role that the working class plays in all the struggles that face us, including the fight against police repression. "As old as the class struggle is, it moves ahead all the time. We can see that here tonight. The Working Class is on the Rise!"

STOP POLICE REPRESSION -
ORGANIZE TO FIGHT !!

INDOCHINESE VICTORY IS

The people of Indochina have been victorious on the battlefield. Liberation is the order of the day. With the regularity of a machinegun, blow after blow is falling on US imperialists who now must plot and scheme to find other ways to keep their power intact. With the great majority of the people of the world, we join to celebrate the victories and salute the fighters for freedom and independence in Cambodia and Vietnam.

The most joyous celebrations have been in Cambodia and in Vietnam, as in city after city the people have turned out to greet the liberation forces. As reported by a French correspondent in Phnom Penh immediately after liberation on April 17th, "The popular enthusiasm is evident. Groups form around the insurgents, who often carry American weapons.... Processions form in the street and the refugees are starting to go home." In Hue, the ancient capital of Vietnam, people offered tea and biscuits to the liberation fighters as an expression of affection. One old Vietnamese woman firmly grasped the hands of a liberation soldier and said: "My child! For years I have been looking forward to the liberation, day and night! My dream has finally come true!" In Da Nang, a rally organized by the Liberation Woman's Union drew 50,000 women who pledged to "strengthen their unity, regardless of political tendencies, religion and nationalities, and work together with other patriotic organizations for a peaceful, beautiful, sound and happy life."

There was much to celebrate. Military forces of ex-President Thieu in South Vietnam crumbled, exposing to the whole world the rottenness of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) and the strength of the liberation forces. City after city was freed as the ARVN troops stumbled over each other in blind panic, trying to flee. ARVN killing women and children so they could get a spot in escape boats only underlined what the world could see--that Thieu's power and authority was based on a pillar of creeping rot. In Cambodia, Lon Nol slunk away, with only his closest cronies even pretending to believe his statements that he would return. Thieu didn't even bother to say goodbye, but suddenly appeared in Taiwan. The plans of both dictators suffered a setback when a Swiss airline refused to fly out $73 million worth of gold bullion they had ripped off from their people.

Because of the deterioration of the Saigon troops there was little need for the fighters of the National Liberation Front (NLF) to battle toward Saigon, with the inevitable wounding or killing of innocent people which is part of war. As stated by the Foreign Minister of the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG), Madame Binh, peaceful liberation is their goal; they are trying to obtain their objectives "if possible, by other than military means." NLF troops did not go immediately into Saigon but left time for negotiation. For the same reason the Cambodian liberation forces, which could have attacked Phnom Penh earlier at great cost in lives, waited to liberate the capital city. In both countries, liberation soldiers are fighters for the people--not against the people.

The people of Indochina have more reason than most to hate war; their land has been a battleground for decades. But even though, like people all over the world, they hate war, they hate oppression and exploitation even more. The harsh realities of war, the bloodshed, the casualties, are less harsh than the reality of exploitation and imperialist rule.

More is involved in the struggles of the Indochinese than just ridding themselves of US imperialists; that is just one vital step along the road toward freedom, independence, and a better life for the people. In areas of Vietnam and Cambodia which have been liberated in the past, the people and their government have been working together to bring improvements--healthcare, hospitals, schools. But in the past, these improvements have had to take a backseat to the needs of the war; in Cambodia, for instance, people in the liberated zones increased their rice harvest immensely, but they willingly sent the excess to the troops at the front. With the end of fighting, that will no longer be necessary. In South Vietnam, soon after liberation, vital services in major cities--which had fallen apart in the final days of ARVN occupation--were restored, and prices were declining.

Even in the midst of rebuilding their countries, however, the PRG in Vietnam and the Royal Government of National Union in Cambodia (GRUNC) are well aware that their struggle is not over, that threats still exist. When asked if he thought the danger of American interference in Cambodian affairs was past, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of GRUNC, said, "Certainly not." He went on to recount the history of American interference in his country (Sihanouk was the victim of a CIA-sponsored coup which put Lon Nol in power in 1970), and talked about the continuing struggle. "There are structures to dismantle," he said. "We must know who is who, tag those who must be watched, weed out the pro-Americans."

Khieu Samphan, Deputy Premier and Defense Minister in the new Cambodian government, spoke in similar terms: "This historic victory opens bright prospects," he said. But "there will certainly be many obstacles in carrying out our tasks of national defense and construction"; he called for "increasing revolutionary vigilance."

People in the US should learn from these statements, as we must learn from the entire history of the Indochina war. Even while we were celebrating the victory in Cambodia and looking forward to the final liberation of Vietnam, US Marines aboard a naval task force were steaming off the coast of Vietnam. Their supposed objective was the evacuation of Americans but any sense of "revolutionary vigilance" tells us that the imperialists can be trusted about as far as the average man can throw the USS Enterprise. The imperialists are wounded, but still vicious.

The whole history of US involvement in Vietnam, and Indochina as a whole, underlines the lesson that imperialism means war. It's not just the case that a few evil men sitting in the Pentagon or White House wanted to murder millions of Vietnamese--it's a whole lot more than that. Imperialism is a system based on profit--that is, profit for the rich and powerful. To keep that profit growing, imperialists have to exploit both workers at home and workers and others around the world. They have to gain economic control over countries like Vietnam and Cambodia in order to have markets, cheap raw materials, cheap labor power.

Economic control necessarily means that the imperialists have to gain political power as well--that's the only way they can

S A VICTORY FOR US ALL!

protect their economic power. It doesn't make a major difference to them if the political power is direct (that is, turning the country into a colony as France did in Indochina) or whether political control is a little more subtle. That's where Thieu and Lon Nol come in--to act as agents and as traitors to the interests of their own people to carry out the wishes of their imperialist masters.

To maintain that political power, however, inevitably leads one step further--to war. The people of the world, whether in Indochina, Africa, or the US, refuse to lie down in front of the imperialist machine. They fight back against the repression and exploitation that imperialism brings down on them--and we have seen the result in Indochina.

Revolutionary vigilance of the US people is needed, now more than ever, because imperialism, despite its setbacks, still means war. When there is a contest with another superpower for political and economic control (as is now the case in the Middle East) the danger of war increases many times over.

We should learn more than just the need for vigilance from the victory. The US tried out almost every weapon in its arsenal against the people of Indochina. For years, they fought back with leftover or captured weapons, punji stakes, crossbows --but most of all with the political determination to be free. Yet, in the face of defoliants, B-52's, electronic battlefields, and all the rest, the Indochinese won the war.

To counter this devastating power, the Indochinese had the people of their countries with them. It is masses of people, not weapons, which are finally decisive in war. An old Vietnamese proverb says that "The dike yields to the pressure of the water," and it was the constant pressure of the masses of people under the leadership of the PRG and the National United Front of Cambodia which consistently eroded the foundations of imperialist rule in Indochina.

Of course, the US media, serving as a

tool of the rich, will not tell us of the power of millions of people fighting in unity. Instead, we are fed all kinds of excuses and all kinds of camouflageis thrown up to cover the real story of Indochina. The latest smokescreen has been the sick manuever of kidnapping orphans from their homeland under the guise of being "humanitarian." Underlying this criminal tactic is the idea that the Vietnamese are not capable of taking care of their own children, when in fact, with the concept of the extended family which is part of Vietnamese culture, they are far more capable of taking care of their so-called "orphans" than is "humanitarian," imperialist America. No clearer example is needed than the fact that Son Minh Nguyen, who, 10 years ago, was one of the first Vietnamese children adopted by Americans, now wants to return home. As he puts it, "I would prefer to go back to the simple and enjoyable life I had in Vietnam, whether it's Communist or not."

Equally revolting is the US government propaganda about the "bloodbaths" which every reporter in Southeast Asia is working like hell to try and find. When, like the PRG or GRUNC, the government truly serves the interests of the people, the only blood shed is what is necessary. In war, people die. And there are enemies of the people--scum like the traitors in Phnom Penh--who should be executed. But that is a tiny portion of the population. As stated in the 10-point policy of the PRG regarding newly liberated areas, even puppet soldiers, police, civil servants, etc who go to the liberated zones or stay in the zones after liberation and turn themselves in, "will receive assistance to earn their living, to go home, or, if they wish, to serve in the new regime according to their capabilities. Their meritorious actions will be rewarded, but those who work against the revolution will be severly punished."

The US government and the imperialists in whose interests the government operates try to avoid having the lessons of Indochina spread around, because these are lessons that apply to other countries. Already the Pathet Lao troops are beginning to move to throw off the reactionary forces in that country, and in Thailand, resistance to the government has forced it to tell the US to remove airbases and to close the borders with Cambodia.

The lessons of Indochina apply further --to the exploited people of the US. And these are lessons that VVAW/WSO must put into practice. Many of us have been fighting against US involvement in Indochina for years and have come to understand what the Indochinese are fighting for. A statement by Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the NLF, notes the resistance to US imperialism from inside the US. "We are grateful," he said, "to the American people for having heroically and stubbornly resisted the war of aggression in South Vietnam, to have demanded the withdrawal of US troops from Indochina, and for their support of our efforts to defend the Paris Accord for Vietnam."

With the liberation of Indochina, however, our job is not finished, anymore than is the struggle of the Indochinese people. Many of us saw the naked brutality of imperialism in Indochina and the racism and exploitation which were part of it. And when we returned to the US, we saw the same imperialism in operation--in the prisons which were filled with Vietnam-era vets, in the VA hospitals which didn't serve the people, in the workplace where exploitation grows daily, in the unemployment centers where millions of people--vets and others--try to get by on inadequate benefits. Our answer to all these manifestations of imperialism is the same as the answer of the Indochinese--fight back. A fighting movement of vets and GIs is growing and is joining with other forces in the struggle to end imperialism. That is why we, as VVAW/WSO, have a special reason to say the victory of the Indochinese people is a victory for us all--they have struck a mighty blow against imperialism, and imperialism is the enemy of us all.

"After sorrow comes happiness" says the final line of a Ho Chi Minh poem. For the people of Indochina, that happiness is having gained their freedom and their independence, in having thrown off the leaden burden of US imperialism so that they can move forward in peace to improve the lives of their people. For us, we can join in their happiness, draw inspiration from their struggle and their victory, learn the lessons which the war in Indochina has to teach, and move forward our own struggle against the same enemy.

Revolutionary Student Brigade Demos

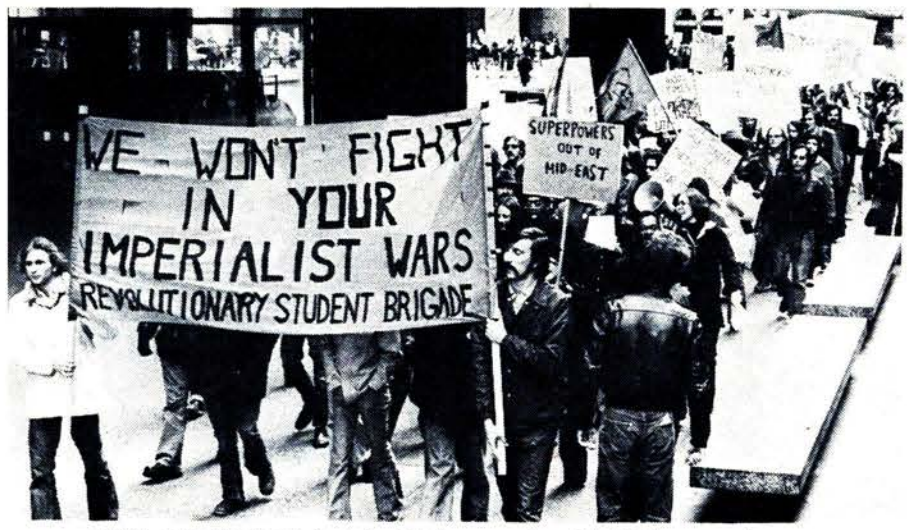
WE WON'T FIGHT IN YOUR IMPERIALIST WARS!

"We Won't Fight in Your Imperialist Wars" -- "Superpowers!-Out of the Mid-East" were just two of the many banners and chants that led marches of hundreds of students, workers, veterans and other people in 3 major cities. Two days of nationwide demonstrations were called, organized and led by the Revolutionary Student Brigade (RSB), a nationwide anti-imperialist student organization which is working in over 50 cities in the US.

The demonstrations were called to show the growing student movement's opposition to continued US intervention in the internal affairs of Indochina and the threat of impending war in the Middle East. Strongly emphasized at all the demonstrations was the fact that the US is not the only imperialist country in the world today. Imperialist powers have divided up the world amongst themselves in the scramble for profits. As the people of the world fight like hell to win control of their own countries, and the system of imperialism is in a deepening crisis, the imperialists must contend with each other, must re-divide the world in order to survive. The main contenders in the world today are the two superpowers, the US and the Soviet Union. Both countries are pulling strings and applying pressure to the various Arab countries in the Middle East--daily moving closer and closer to an all-out war in the oil-rich Arab states. While the oil found in the Middle East is not critical to either the US or the Soviet Union at this time, what is at stake is the economic control of the industrial countries of Europe and other highly developed countries like Japan--all of whom depend on the Middle East for almost all their oil and petroleum products.

The major theme of the demonstration was: "WE WON'T FIGHT IN YOUR IMPERIALIST WARS," with the additional demands of "Superpowers! Out of the Mid-East -- Victory to the Palestinian People" and "Victory to the Indochinese People--No Aid to Thieu & Lon Nol, Implement the Peace Agreement!" The demonstrations also assumed the character of celebrations for the recent victories of the national liberation struggles of the people of Vietnam and Cambodia.

The first in the series of demonstrations was held Friday, April 18th, in Boston, Massachusetts when 600 people marched from Boston Commons, following a short rally, through the streets to within two blocks of where Jerry Ford, president and chief clown, was speaking. The predominently Italian-American community of Haymarket Square, surrounding where Ford spoke, had been terrorized by police and FBI agents earlier in the day when the people of the normally busy community were forced off the streets and ordered to close their stores so the cops could turn the area into an armed camp. More than anything else the pigs feared that the people of the community would join with the RSB demonstration. RSB and other Boston groups had been doing a considerable amount of mass work in the community in preparation for the demonstration and had met with an overwhelmingly positive response from the people there. Unshaken by the massive police presence, the militant activities continued with a spirited rally following the march.



RSB contingent leads Chicago April 19th march

In Chicago on April 19th, 700 militant demonstrators marched through the downtown Loop area following a short rally at the Chicago Civic Center. The march was punctuated by frequent stops to speak to and leaflet the thousands of Saturday afternoon shoppers in the downtown area. The people continued their march to the Federal Building where a rally was held with several speakers and cultural presentations focusing on the demands of the nationwide demonstrations. The demonstrators then marched back through the downtown area to the Chicago Civic Center where an effigy of imperialism was burned--just as the real system of imperialism is being put to the torch by the people of the world. As the rally was breaking up, a handful of Chicago cops rushed from their nearby observation points to stomp out the burning effigy --obviously mistaking it for one of the rich bastards they "Serve and Protect" (the lying motto of the Chicago P.D.)

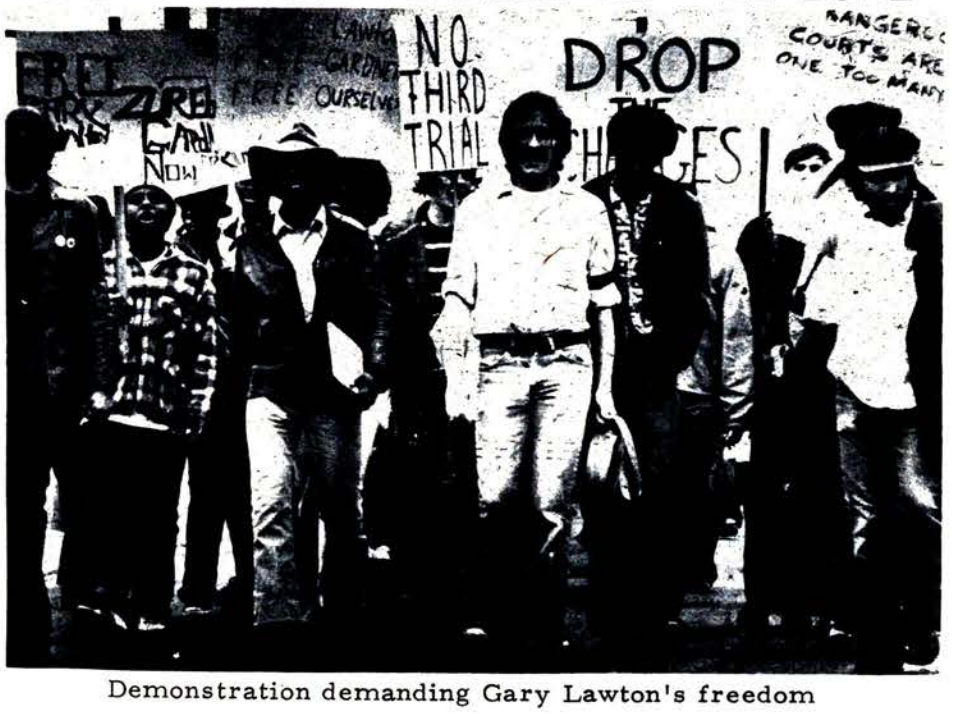
Later the same day, 300 fired-up demonstrators, led once again by RSB, marched from Delores Park in San Francisco, through the downtown area where a militant rally was held with speakers from RSB, and other groups that supported the actions in the Bay Area. Around the country the actions were supported by groups including VVAW/WSO and the Revolutionary Union. In addition the Iranian Students Association brought out large, fiery contingents to the demonstrations in Chicago and San Francisco. The celebration of the victory of the Indochinese people was a major rallying point and source of militant organizing for the Bay Area demo.

Aside from the overwhelming success of the demonstrations, they were an important milestone in the history of the RSB and the growing anti-imperialist student movement. In their first nationally coordinated days of demonstrations, hundreds of students new to the struggle against imperialism were brought out to the demonstrations as a result of the consistent day-to-day work in the local chapters of RSB around tuition hikes, educational cutbacks, and the presence of military recruiters and ROTC on campuses. The RSB, in their struggles, are forging unity -- the unity and solidarity of a fighting student movement which is linking up to the struggles of veterans, GIs, working people and the revolutionary movements of the people of the world in our common struggle against imperialism.

For more information on the Revolutionary Student Brigade, contact: RSB National Office, P.O. Box A3423, Chicago, Illinois 60690.

Rally at Chicago RSB demonstration

Frame-up Of Lawton Clear In Third Trial



Demonstration demanding Gary Lawton's freedom

The third trial of Gary Lawton, a Black community organizer and VVAW/WSO member, began in late February in Riverside, California. Lawton is accused of the "ambush" slayings of two Riverside police officers in April, 1971. Two previous trials, both ending in hung juries, and three lie detector tests have failed to establish Lawton's involvement in the shooting, but they have shown that the government will resort to any slimey tactics to obtain a conviction -- resorting to lies, bribes, and physical attacks to create the string of farces known as the prosecution's so-called "case" in the 3 trials of Gary Lawton. To date, the government has spent over 3 million dollars on this and two other futile attempts to frame Gary Lawton, Zurebu Gardner and Nehemiah Jackson. During the first two trials charges were dropped against Gardner and Jackson for a "lack of evidence." This, only after the three men had spent nearly 2 years in jail awaiting trial.

On March 6th, the prosecution began its case against Gary Lawton after Ronald Smith, the prosecutor, was exposed for jury tampering in late February during jury selection. No new evidence of any significance was introduced by the prosecution in this third trial; it has put forth the same lies that the government has fruitlessly maintained throughout the first two trials.

In the week of April 21, the defense called a series of witnesses, mostly police officers, with whom the defense has established a time framework that clearly proves that Gary Lawton could not have been present at the scene of the shooting nor could the Riverside cop, Officer Lund who is the chief witness for the prosecution. Other witnesses have been summoned by the defense to expose the lies this railroading of Gary Lawton is based upon.

One recent development in the trial occurred on April 21st when the prosecutor, Ronald Smith, and one of the court reporters were discovered attempting to alter Officer Lund's description of the crime in the trial transcripts in an effort to get his lies from previous testimony to match those in his current story. To the surprise of no one, the judge of Lawton's case, Ed Siederly, refused to take action on this event, another outrage in the history of Gary Lawton's struggle.

The defense is expected to rest its case in early May and the trial is expected to last until June. After exposing to the people the lies, underhanded tricks, and blatant racism of the government, the Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee feels very optimistic about the possibility of a complete acquittal for Gary Lawton. The RPPDC and VVAW/WSO have continually built support for the trials by demonstrations, leafletting, petition campaigns and providing physical support at the trials on a daily basis.

The struggle of Gary Lawton and RPPDC members has been a continual fight since May, 1971 when Gary was arrested in connection with the shootings. In the three years that VVAW/WSO has been working with the trial of Gary Lawton, the understanding has grown that only through the unity and solidarity of people across the country and around the world will we be able to free Gary and all political prisoners. The power lies with the masses of people and not with the courts, cops or ruling class. FREE GARY LAWTON--FREE US ALL!!

Contributions and messages of solidarity should be sent to: RPPDC, P.O. Box 244, Riverside, California 92502.

CINCY SEVEN TRIAL CLOSES several convicted

The trial of seven people in Cincinnati ended with four acquittals, and three people being found guilty of reduced charges on April 18th. The seven people, members of VVAW/WSO, the Revolutionary Union, the Peoples Health Movement (a community group working around better healthcare), and the Jimmy Hardy Defense Committee (a group fighting the frame-up trial of a militant Black community leader), had been charged with various counts of assault and battery on a police officer, resisting arrest, interference and disorderly conduct.

Seven months earlier, on Sept 17, the seven defendants had been part of a picket line protesting police repression. The police singled out the one Black defendent who was handing out leaflets, and began harassing him, finally placing him under arrest. When another of the defendants came to support him, she was attacked by the police, and the other defendants joined in to resist this blatant attack. This show of multi-national unity, and of people fighting back was something that the police had to stop, and the seven people were arrested.

The state delayed the trial a number of times, thinking that it could intimidate the defendants into restricting their organizing activities. This tactic failed, though, and the defendants kept right on working. When the trial finally began on April 14th, there was a spirited and militant demonstration on the courthouse steps, and the courtroom was crowded with supporters throughout the five-day trial. Four of the defendants had their charges dropped; two VVAW/WSO women were found guilty of interfering with police officers (assault charges were dropped), and one man was found guilty of assault and interfering. Sentencing is set for May 9th.

Although there was support both inside and outside the courtroom, the defendants had decided that the day-to-day work of their organizations was more important than building mass support around the defense. As a result, they are now faced with court costs and fines which could total as high as $3500; contributions can be sent to: VVAW/WSO, P.O. Box 19302, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

BOB HOOD

WINTER SOLDIER has consistently covered the trial of Bob Hood and we are pleased to say that all charges against Bob were dropped on March 6th. Hood was arrested in Feb. 1974, and charged with assaulting a police officer with a deadly weapon (a 3" pocket knife found in his pocket after being handcuffed). Hood was tried in Jan. 1975, but after 2 weeks, a mistrial was declared because the jury was hung.

UWOC demands:
JOBS OR INCOME NOW

It doesn't take much to see that unemployment is hitting a record-breaking high in the US with nowhere to go but up. The economy, like a broken-down Ford Edsel, is rapidly falling apart and heading into an ever-deepening crisis. Massive unemployment, like the runaway inflation we are now experiencing, is just one of the results of this crisis. Both of these are an out-and-out attack on the US working class: attacks launched by the bloated little men sitting in the directors' offices of places like General Motors, Chase Manhattan and IBM. Working hand-in-glove with their front men in government, these pigs are trying to shift the burden of the crisis of the imperialist system onto our backs.

But we know, and all working people in the US know, that it wasn't us who created this crisis. We are not to blame and we'll be damned if we'll pay for it! When the bigshot bosses tell us there is no work what they really mean is that there is no work that they can make a profit from! So, we end up with no jobs and just a few months of unemployment benefits that can hardly pay the rent. And after that, no benefits at all. Tough? Sure times are hard. But hard times mean fighting times and working people everywhere aren't taking unemployment lying down.

A growing movement of unemployed workers, led by groups like the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC) is doing something about it. A fighting workers' organization, UWOC has 4 basic demands it is organizing around: EMPLOYED/UNEMPLOYED--SAME CRISIS, SAME FIGHT! WE WON'T SCAB AND WE WON'T STARVE! UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FOR ALL PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT! JOBS OR INCOME NOW! Relying on the united strength of the masses of unemployed workers, UWOC is taking its campaign into the streets, into the unemployment offices and to the plant gates and linking the struggle against unemployment with the struggle of all working people facing speedups, low wages, miserable working conditions and harassment.

When the ruling class tells us to "bite the bullet," UWOC's response is FIGHT, DON'T STARVE! And as ever larger numbers of unemployed workers join the struggle for JOBS OR INCOME NOW! this is exactly what's happening--in Boston, New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Washington, DC, Los Angeles, Seattle and a lot of other cities.

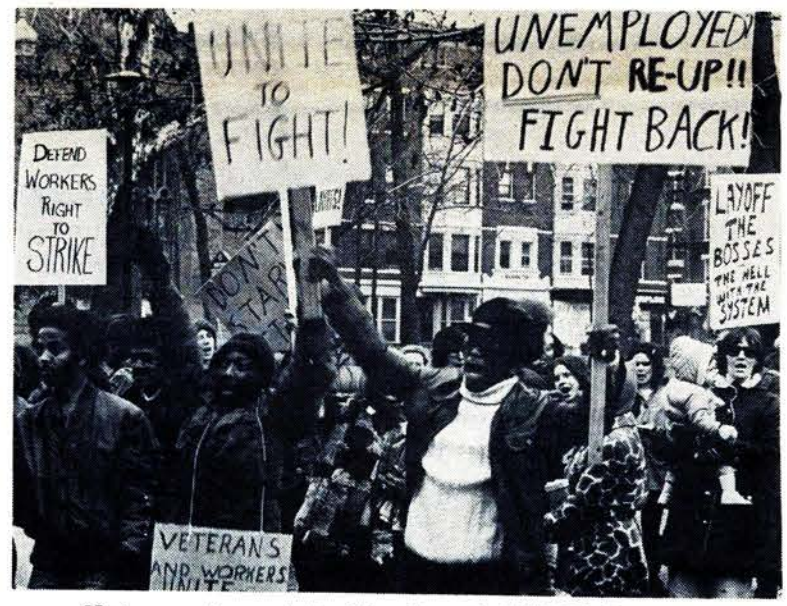
Uniting and fighting back together is the last thing the ruling class wants to see us doing. In their newspapers, like the Detroit Free Press, they tell us to fight the "laid-off blues" by using our spare time to exercise and really "get into shape." Well, we're going to get into "shape" alright; but by exercising our muscles in uniting workers and other people all over the US to fight back against the rich. Working people make everything in this country -- the cars, houses, food, everything. Yet here we are with no jobs and going without. There ain't nothing right about a system where our kids are getting hungry and our houses are getting cold. We don't have any choice--we have to fight back. As one of the UWOC demonstration chants puts it: UNEMPLOYMENT AIN'T NO JOKE, GIVE US JOBS OR THE CITY'S GONNA SMOKE!

FROM THE CHOW LINES TO THE UNEMPLOYMENT LINES

VVAW/WSO is an active part of the growing movement of unemployed workers. Uniting with groups like UWOC, VVAW/WSO sees its task of uniting the veterans movement with other working people, both employed and unemployed. As a fighting veterans organization, we have a special role to play: in addition to *fighting for jobs* for veterans, we need to fight back against the long-standing attempts of the bosses to try and "divide and conquer" by pitting vets against other workers in competition for a few bullshit jobs, and also to raise the point that having just got out of one imperialist war, it isn't going to "solve" our unemployment problems to get into another one.

From the get-go, vets have been hit hard by unemployment. From the chow lines of the war in Indochina, where GIs were used as the cannon fodder of big business, vets have been marched straight back home to the unemployment lines, where we are now being used as the shock troops of the army of the unemployed. Stuck with a loss of seniority time due to military service, a lack of real job training, and 600,000 plus less-than-honorable discharges, vets have an unemployment rate way above the national average. For minority vets, that rate is doubled again!

But we are doing more than just talking about the problem. Joining with groups like UWOC, we are fighting to do something about it. One of the many examples of this was on March 22nd in Milwaukee where VVAW/WSO helped build a "Jobs or Income" action. There, some 100 people gathered on Wisconsin Ave, the main drag in Milwaukee, to march for JOBS OR INCOME NOW! Marching down the same street that 40,000 unemployed workers had been on in 1934, VVAW/WSO members united in a coalition of groups that included a large group of striking meatcutters from several Milwaukee packing plants.



Vets contingent in Cincinnati UWOC Demo

By the time the march ended, another 50 people had joined in with it. At the march, a VVAW/WSO member spoke about the need to tie the demand of "Jobs or Income" to the demand "We Won't Fight Any Imperialist Wars!" The speaker pointed out that "they try to tell us that a war is what we need to give us jobs. But we know that, like Vietnam, it'll be a 'rich man's war, a poor man's fight.' We say we won't fight another rich man's war in Vietnam, in the Middle East or anywhere else!"

The March 22nd action in Milwaukee was particularly notable for the unity it forged between employed and unemployed workers. There, the meatcutters have struck several plants in the city and the packing companies have imported massive numbers of scabs from all over the country to break the strike. A key part of the action was in raising the demand of "We Won't Scab, We Won't Starve!" together with the demand of "Victory to the Meatcutters' Strike!" As the march ended at the main plant being struck by the meatcutters union, the point was again made that employed and unemployed, veterans and non-vets have to stand together in unity to fight these attacks on us all.

What is happening in Milwaukee around the unemployment struggle, and what VVAW/WSO is doing about it in a lot of other cities, is just the tip of the iceberg. There is a sleeping giant among us--our united mass action. And as the layoffs go on, the struggles of the unemployed are rapidly waking this giant up. We in VVAW/WSO are going to be playing an ever greater role in this process -- by building the fight for "Jobs or Income For All!"

Revolutionary Culture

PRAIRIE FIRE TOUR

Chicago Prairie Fire Concert

Since February, Prairie Fire, a revolutionary musical group from the San Francisco Bay Area has been on a national tour, sponsored by the Revolutionary Student Brigade and Revolutionary Union. Though musical groups tour the US all the time, there is a big difference between most other groups and Prairie Fire. In the first place, Prairie Fire is a working class couple; when they aren't performing, they're working in factories. In the second place, the music which Prairie Fire is taking out to people all across the country is music which has grown out of the daily struggles being waged against oppression and exploitation the world over. Not only do their songs expose the nature of the imperialist system -- a system which is based on making profits for a small class of parasites off the labor and sweat of working people -- but their music also speaks to the fact that people are uniting and taking matters into their own hands in order to change the society we live in.

Prairie Fire sings of the struggles of women, of struggles against police repression, of strikes, of the unemployed organizing to fight for jobs, of veterans waging war on the VA, of students and of working people who are uniting to fight the bosses. They sing of revolution and how to push the struggle against imperialism forward; their music is an expression of the fact that through unity, we can bring this rotten system of exploitation to its knees.

Prairie Fire is more than a couple of song-writers. They are not "super-stars," but cultural workers whose music is serving people and building struggle. When we hear the word "culture," we often think of things like opera, dull poetry readings, high brow discussions of literature and art, etc. But culture is an expression of ideas, and it represents the viewpoint of one group of people or another and can be a powerful tool in creating opinions among people. Through culture, we are daily bombarded with the viewpoint of that small class of people who rule this country. Just as this class of people owns all the factories, plants and mines, they also own the TV and radio stations, publishing houses, movies, etc. and through these, it pushes its own view of the world. The ruling class promotes ideas of individualism, cynicism, defeatism, drug usage, and tries to divert the righteous anger of the people who are pissed off at the way things are being run in this country by trying to get us to blame one another for the problems. In doing this, it hides the real cause of peoples' suffering -- the imperialist system. For example, we daily hear songs on the radio which spew out such garbage as, "Life is so hard and I'm so down and out; if only my baby would come back, we could escape from all this and life will be groovy." Lyrics like this further ideas of escapism and defeatism and try to make people believe that nothing can be done about the hard times we're going through these days, except maybe to run off somewhere and try to hide.

In contrast to this kind of trash, we have the lyrics of a Prairie Fire song:

Hard times are fightin' times for me;
Times were hard enough in what they
call prosperity.
I'll be damned if my belt's gonna tighten;
Let the bosses do the bullet biting, cause
Hard times are fightin' times for me."

This is the language of struggle expressed in music -- the expression of an idea that we're not going to sit back and accept the economic crisis that is currently making it hard for people to survive. Instead, we're going to fight back against the bosses who are bringing down the lay-offs, the cut-backs, the speed-ups. The economic crisis was caused by the bosses and the ruling class as a whole as they try like hell to increase their profits, and we're going to make them pay for it!

It is important for the people of this country to develop more cultural forms which express our ideas, our experiences, and our aspirations. The ruling class puts out their ideas daily, through the media, and tries to make us think that they've got everything under control, and that if people do resist their exploitation, we'll all be punished because there is nothing that can be done to challenge the rule of the government. But we know different. We know that people are uniting and fighting back against the lay-offs, against the police attacks in our communities, against the rotten treatment given vets by the VA. And there's something else we know and that is that the people united will win what they're fighting for. We need cultural forms to express our view of the world, our view of the struggles being waged by the people, and our view of the power that a united people have.

Prairie Fire is developing this kind of culture, as are many other poor and working people around the country-- not only in music but in art, poetry, and theater. Ours is a culture that belongs to that class of the exploited -- not to the exploiters. It is a culture which pushes our struggle forward, builds our unity, and serves as a powerful tool in our hands as we broaden the struggle to defeat the imperialist system. In the words of Prairie Fire, "We can shake, rattle and roll in the concert halls 'till our spirits are as high as the sky, but it's in the streets, on the picket lines, in direct battle with the bosses that the real war is to be waged and won." The music of Prairie Fire is one weapon we have in that battle.

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Last month, we were unable to print Winter Soldier. We are also affected by the crisis of imperialism and need your financial support. Send us a check TODAY!!!

TWO ATTICA BROTHERS CONVICTED; FBI EXPOSED

On April 5th, two Attica Brothers, John (Dacajeweiah) Hill and Charley Joe Pernasilice were found guilty of charges in connection with the death of William Quinn, an Attica guard. Dacajeweiah was convicted of murder and Charley Joe of 2nd degree assault; bond was revoked for both men and they were returned to prison. The state and its tools -- the prosecution, the judge, the police -- knew it was essential to get a conviction in this case (earlier trials of Brothers have resulted in acquittals or dropping of charges) and went to blatant extremes both inside and outside the courtroom.

In the court the prosecution and judge restricted the evidence to the 15 minute period when Quinn was killed; they refused to admit testimony dealing with the Rebellion, the reasons for it, and the atrocities that followed the end of the Rebellion. The defendants were prohibited from speaking in their own defense. A move to subpoena Nelson Rockefeller who, as governor of New York ordered the massacre, was denied. The fact that a number of potential witnesses to Quinn's death had been systematically killed was kept from the jury, as was the admission of guilt by another prisoner, now dead. Prosecution witnesses included ex-prisoners who had been bribed and threatened to tell the prosecution story, and guards whose interests clearly lay entirely with the prosecutors.

Even with all these tricks, the evidence against Charley Joe was so weak that the judge was forced to drop the charge against him from murder to assault. The blatant racism and illegalities of the proceedings give ample grounds for appeal.

The lessons of Attica live on, despite the state's futile attempts. The unity of the 1100 men who, for 4 days controlled their own lives in Attica's D-Yard, was such a threat to the state and its governor, that they sent in storm troopers and murdered 43 men. Mass support for the prisoners' right to rebel has spread around the country, and with it, a growing understanding of the uses of the American prison system as a weapon of the state to attack poor and minority people. Since Rockefeller and his stooges could not crush the spirit of the Rebellion with bullets, they decided, after 3 years of maneuvering and manipulating, to use the courts and the so-called "justice" system.

That tactic won't work. The cover-up which the state has tried to hang on to for 3 and a half years is cracking. Members of the original prosecution are exposing the state's refusal to hear the evidence against the guards who murdered the men in D-Yard; other eye-witnesses are talking about how their testimony about the brutality following the massacre was ignored by the state. Investigations into the guilt of the police and the prosecution have begun, and the real criminals -- Rockefeller who commanded the attack, the troopers, and the system which they represent -- will be identified. Final judgment will come from the people, and through the peoples' struggle the Brothers will be freed.

SNITCH INVADES VVAW-WSO

MARY JO COOK

Another tool of the state was exposed when Mary Jo Cook, a member of VVAW/WSO in Buffalo, admitted that she had been an FBI informant. Through her activities in VVAW/WSO she had become involved with the Attica Defense and reported on their plans to the FBI. (Government infiltration of the defense is one more basis for appeal in the case just concluded, and for declaring a mistrial in the case now being tried).

Mary Jo was sent into VVAW/WSO by the FBI and paid up to $400 a month. As a representative of the chapter she attended national meetings and conferences, in the US and Canada. Within the organization, she created dissension through rumor-mongering and turning disagreements and struggle into division, under FBI instructions. Her confession provides one more warning about what slimey tactics the US government will stoop to in order to try slowing down the struggle against the imperialist system.

Regional Offices

ALABAMA/MISSISSIPPI/TENNESSEE/LOUISIANA

Contact National Office

ALASKA/WASHINGTON/OREGON

VVAW/WSO
P.O. Box 411
Tillicum, Washington 98492
(206) 272-4532

CALIFORNIA/NEVADA/ARIZONA

VVAW/WSO - Tom Zangrilli
P.O. Box 24B65 - Village Station
Los Angeles, California 90024
(213) 629-3914

COLORADO/UTAH/NEW MEXICO/WYOMING

Bob Anyon
2530 West 37th St. #2
Denver, Colorado 80211
(303) 320-4071

FLORIDA/GEORGIA

VVAW/WSO - David Gornewicz
30100 Old Dixie Hwy, Apt. #23
Homestead, Florida 33030
(305) 248-6799

N. ILLINOIS/IOWA

VVAW/WSO
827 West Newport
Chicago, Illinois 60657
(312) 327-0488

S. ILLINOIS/E. MISSOURI/OKLAHOMA ARKANSAS

VVAW/WSO
1023 Allen Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63104
(314) 621-2648

KANSAS/W. MISSOURI/NEBRASKA/NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA

VVAW/WSO
1715 North St. Francis
Wichita, Kansas 67214
(316) 263-3946

MARYLAND/VIRGINIA/WASHINGTON, DC

VVAW/WSO
521 B Second St., NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 543-0817

MASSACHUSETTS/NEW HAMPSHIRE/R.I. MAINE/VERMONT/CONNECTICUT

VVAW/WSO
15 Clymer
Burlington, Vermont 05401
(802) 862-8175

NEW YORK/N. NEW JERSEY

Steve Hassett, VVAW/WSO
P.O. Box 902, Ellicott Station
Buffalo, New York 14205
(716) 886-8645

OHIO/INDIANA/KENTUCKY/MICHIGAN W. PENNSYLVANIA/WEST VIRGINIA

VVAW/WSO - Bob Moore
P.O. Box 19302
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219
(513) 961-6585

E. PENNSYLVANIA/DELAWARE/S. NEW JERSEY

VVAW/WSO
P.O. Box 638
Havertown, Pennsylvania 19083

TEXAS

VVAW/WSO
2912 Wentworth
Houston, Texas 77004
(713) 923-1589

WISCONSIN/MINNESOTA

VVAW/WSO
2532 N. Holton
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212
(414) 264-0882

Regional Contacts

NORTH & SOUTH CAROLINA

Glenn Plott
1003 West Lenoir St.
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603
(919) 833-0570

NATIONAL OFFICE
VVAW/WSO
827 West Newport
Chicago, Illinois 60657
(312) 935-2129

Project Offices

GARY LAWTON DEFENSE COMMITTEE

RPPDC
P.O. Box 244
Riverside, California 92502
(714) 686-2363

NATIONAL G.I. PROJECT OFFICE

VVAW/WSO
827 West Newport
Chicago, Illinois 60657
(312) 935-2129

POST-VIETNAM SYNDROME CLEARINGHOUSE

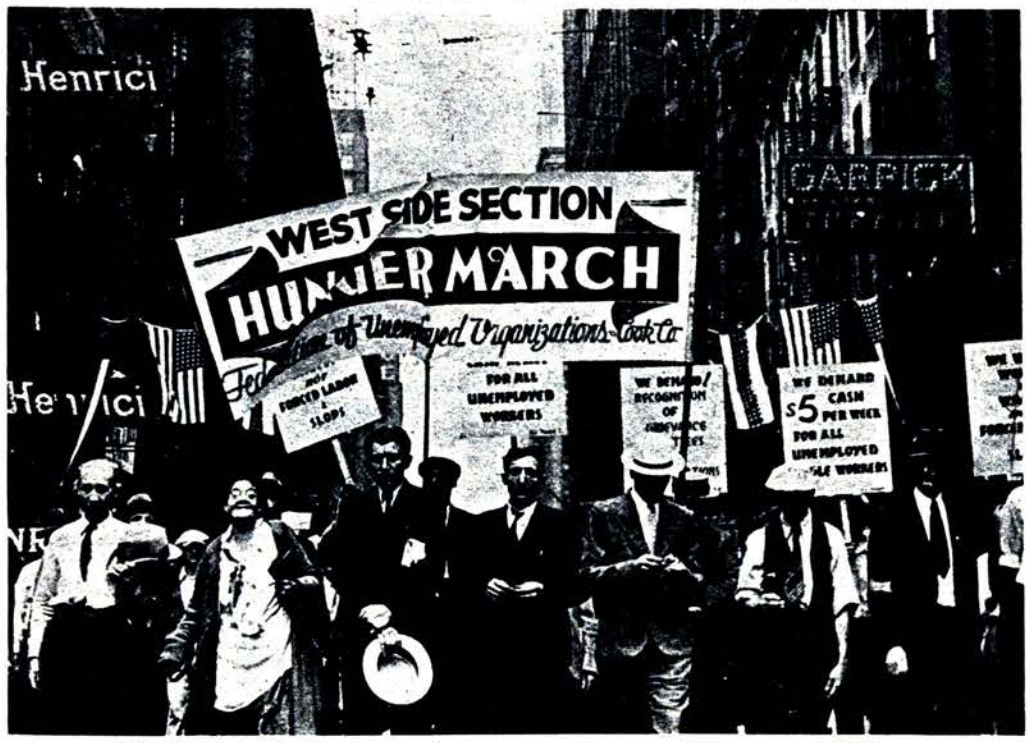
VVAW/WSO
2532 N. Holton
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212
(414) 264-0882

AMNESTY/PRISON PROJECT OFFICE

VVAW/WSO
827 West Newport
Chicago, Illinois 60657
(312) 935-2129

UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY

60,000 WORKERS SHOUT: 'WE WANT JOBS NOW!'



Unemployed workers demonstration in Chicago, 1932

On April 26th, East Coast members of VVAW/WSO participated in the largest labor rally held in Washington, DC since the depression of the 1930s. Well over 60,000 rank-and-file union members came to DC for an AFL-CIO sponsored "Rally For Jobs Now" held in DC's Kennedy Stadium. The union bigshots and the liberal politicians had planned on dishing up a lots-of-talk-no-action program to the angry workers, hoping to keep them 'peaceful and out of trouble.' They were rudely suprised, however.

No sooner had their little song-and-dance program begun when furious workers charged out into the playing field towards the stage chanting "we want jobs now!" Waving placards saying JOBS OR INCOME NOW and FIGHT, DON'T STARVE, militant workers hooted down Senator Hubert Humphrey, who had been trundled out to blither on about unemployment and how nasty it is. The workers utterly freaked out the Hump, seized the stage and forced the union heavyweights to slink off to their wall-to-wall carpeted offices. The workers in DC on the 26th served notice on the bigtime liberal politicians and their labor hack buddies that they were tired of the bullshit runaround they've been given. People want action. They want jobs and now! Not flowery words and empty promises. The workers in DC made it damn clear that if those jobs are not forthcoming in a big hurry there is going to be hell to pay.

Our contingent in the march demonstrated among the thousands of workers that stood around outside the stadium while the short-lived rally was being held inside. VVAW/WSO members led two marches around the stadium and initiated chants with the crowd for JOBS OR INCOME NOW and WE WON'T FIGHT ANOTHER RICH MAN'S WAR. The reception we received was overwhelming.

Part of our action included a little skit on unemployment. In the skit a young worker is trying to find a job at the unemployment office. After being told that there weren't any jobs, the unemployment office director 'helpfully' steers the young worker to the nearby Army recruitor's table. About to enlist in the service out of desperation, a VVAW/WSO member stomps in and lays out exactly what military life, and imperialist war, is all about. Together they then unite and beat hell out of the recruitor--a dummy made by GIs from a local military base.

It's been a long time since the depression and the massive labor struggles of the 1930s. Since then a lot of things have changed in this country. But one thing that hasn't changed is the system of imperialism we lived under in the 1930s and still live under now. It may be getting old and infirm but it's still around to oppress us. And as long as this system continues to exist, it's going to continue make our lives miserable. But just as surely as the imperialist system insures massive unemployment as we have today, it also ensures that people are going to rise up and fight back.

JOBS OR INCOME NOW!

VETS DEMAND BETTER LIVING AND HEALTH CONDITIONS

At Woods VA hospital in Milwaukee, about 750 patients live in quarters known as the domicilaries. Nicknamed the "doms" or the "graveyard," they provide utterly miserable living conditions. The doms were built around the Civil War and haven't been improved since. They are nothing but common open-bay military bar racks housing about 40 men each. As most of the men have been living in the doms for a number of years, supposedly to receive "rehabilitation therapy," putting up with these conditions is really hard. In addition to the century-old barns the men live in, they are subjected to strict military-type controls. There are nightly bedchecks in the doms, regular shake-downs for "contraband material" and "restriction" to the domicilary area for disciplinary violations. This sort of crap is bad enough when you are in the military but when you're a civilian, it is utterly intolerable.

While the patients in the doms are supposedly there to receive rehabilitation therapy--many suffering from serious alcohol and drug problems--the truth is the so-called rehabilitation programs the VA offers are complete shams. One of the VA's rehab programs for the men in the doms is making artificial poppies which the American Legion then uses for fund-raising. Working in a small shop called the "poppy hut," the patients receive 7¢ for every 1,000 poppies they make. Needless to say, this has zero to do with helping a guy trying to kick methadon or the bottle. Other patients in the doms are sent out to work at goodwill agencies like St. Vincent De Pauls for a whopping 80¢ an hour. Apparently, the VA feels this will help the patients overcome their problems by showing them what great "opportunities" life has to offer once they leave the hospital. The job referral setup for the vets once they are ready to leave the doms is even worse. One vet was recently sent by a VA social worker to apply for a job in one of the meat packing plants in Milwaukee. What the social worker didn't bother to tell the vet was that the plant was being struck by the local meatcutters union and that he would be scabbing on his brothers and sisters if he actually took the job. As soon as he found out what was going on, he told the social worker where to stick his "job" in pretty short order.

The whole setup in the Woods VA doms is lousy and everybody there knows it. In this society the bosses use people for all they are worth and then, when they can no longer use them, toss them into the ashcan and forget them. The treatment the vets in the Woods VA doms are receiving is living testimony to this. But people don't like being treated like dogs and inevitably begin to fight back against it. The vets at the doms have been getting together with VVAW/WSO members to discuss the situation there. There are two basic demands they feel the VA has got to meet. One is for better living conditions, including modern, private 2-man rooms that will dramatically improve the health and safety in the doms; conditions as they are now insure that thefts and fights regularly occur. The other demand is for meaningful rehabilitation programs and an end to the jive nonsense the VA is now trying to pass off on the vets. Either the VA starts meeting these demands or it is going to be facing some mighty rough consequences right in its own backyard.

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NATIONAL OFFICE - 827 W. NEWPORT - CHICAGO - 60657